

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/695,184

Examiner

Nancy Bitar

Applicant(s)

RITTER ET AL.

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed 10/28/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 07/29/2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

JOSEPH MANCUSO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claim 1-8 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The invention as claimed in applicant's independent claims 1-8 when considered as a whole, the exact arrangement of parts and/or the inter connections and functions, is not taught nor suggested by the prior art made of record. While the prior art shows increasing contrast, adjusting the grey-scale range and maintaining the C-value independently. There is no teaching or suggestion of performing all of the operations simultaneously as variously required by the claimed invention where "image data comprised of grey-scale value signals in a grey-scale value range having a C-value defining a center of said grey-scale value range, said harmonization circuit automatically adjusting said grey-scale value signals to effect a contrast increase and simultaneously adjusting said grey-scale value range, to obtain a new grey-scale value range, retaining the C-value of said grey-scale value range in said new grey-scale value range, thereby obtaining adjusted grey-scale value signals", in combination with all the other claim as illustrated in applicants figures 1-4. The closest prior art of record Lee et al. (EP 99 654 943 A2) and Mao et al.(US 2002/0147399) . Lee et al does not teach the above feature it instead teaches an image enhancement circuit that controls the brightness and contrast of a video input signal using an average brightness level. Lee et al teaches a circuit in which the brightness and contrast of a video signal is adaptively controlled according to the average brightness level of a picture. Mao et al teaches adjusting the contrast region comprising a harmonic filter for image processing and a grayscale display . The Examiner

finds no reason or motivation to combine the above references in an obviousness rejection thus placing the application in condition for allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted on later than the payment of the issue fee and to avoid processing delays should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled, comments on statement of reasons for allowance.

Inquiries

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nancy Bitar whose telephone number is 571-270-1041. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (7:30a.m. to 5:00pm).

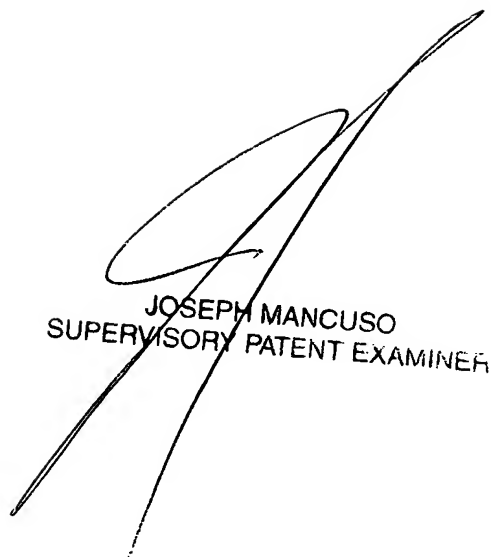
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Mancuso can be reached on 571-272-7695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Nancy Bitar

10/10/2006

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JOSEPH MANCUSO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER